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Memorandum

February 22, 2022

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Luisa Altmann, Senior Research Analyst, 303-866-3518

SUBJECT: Regulated Industry Hours of Operation Laws and Regulations

Summary

The memorandum provides a summary of the laws and regulations regarding the hours of operation for licensed liquor, marijuana, and limited gaming businesses.

Liquor

Beer only. Liquor licensees that are only licensed to sell beer, such as the majority of grocery stores and convenience stores, are prohibited from selling beer between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.¹

Beer, wine, and spirits – off-premises. Liquor licensees that are licensed to sell beer, wine, and spirits in sealed containers for consumption off the licensed premises, such as retail liquor stores and certain grocery stores with a liquor licensed drugstore license, are prohibited from selling beer, wine, or spirits in sealed containers between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. These licensees are also prohibited from selling beer, wine, and spirits in sealed containers on Christmas Day.²

Beer, wine, and spirits – on-premises. Liquor licensees that are licensed to sell beer, wine, and spirits for consumption on the premises, such as bars and restaurants, are prohibited from selling beer, wine, or spirits between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.³

Delivery. Liquor licensees may only sell alcohol beverages through takeout and delivery between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and midnight.⁴

Special events. Special event liquor permits allow for the sale of beer between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m., or the sale of beer, wine, and spirits between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. the following day.⁵

¹Section 44-3-901 (6)(c), C.R.S.

²Section 44-3-901 (6)(b)(II), C.R.S.

³Section 44-3-901 (6)(b)(I), C.R.S.

⁴Section 44-3-911 (1)(a)(I), C.R.S.

⁵Section 44-5-105 (2), C.R.S.

Marijuana

Marijuana stores. Medical and retail marijuana stores are prohibited from selling marijuana between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.⁶

Marijuana hospitality businesses. Marijuana hospitality businesses are prohibited from permitting the consumption or use of marijuana on their licensed premises between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Additionally, retail marijuana hospitality and sales businesses are not permitted to sell marijuana during these hours.⁷

Marijuana delivery. Regulated marijuana businesses with a delivery permit are prohibited from delivering marijuana between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.⁸

Local restrictions. Colorado regulations allow local jurisdictions to further restrict the hours of operation for regulated marijuana businesses within that jurisdiction.

Limited Gaming

Prior to 2009, the Colorado Constitution prohibited limited gaming operations at Colorado casinos between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Following the passage of Amendment 50 in 2008, local voters in the three limited gaming towns of Central City, Black Hawk, and Cripple Creek approved 24-hour limited gaming operations.⁹

⁶1 CCR 212-3 Regulation 3-245 (A)(1).

⁷1 CCR 212-3 Regulation 3-245 (A)(2) and (3).

⁸1 CCR 212-3 Regulation 3-245 (A)(4).

⁹Colo. Constit. art. XVIII, § 9.